

Washington's Theater Season On In Earnest Labor Day---Mitzi and Frances Starr Coming

Poli's Last Capital Playhouse
to Swing Into Line—"Mystery" and "Broken Wing"
Here This Week, With
"East Lynne" on
Way.

With Poli's swinging into line on Labor Day, offering "Wild Cherry," the newest Guy Bolton dramatic comedy, Washington's theater season will be under way at full blast, not to end until warm days come along next May. Capital theatergoers have already had a peek at Helen Hayes in "Bab," flocking to it in large numbers, too, it might be added. Next week they have two more favorites, Frances Starr and Mitzi Hays.

Miss Starr, last seen here in "Tiger! Tiger!" comes to the Shubert-Belasco on Labor Day in "One," a new play written especially for her by Edward Knoblock. It is the third Knoblock play in which she has made marvelous records, the others being "Marie-Odile" and "Tiger! Tiger!"

To support Miss Starr in her latest play, David Belasco has engaged a cast of considerable distinction, including such well-known players as Randle Ayrton, Philip Desborough, Martin Lewis, Theodore Babcock, Marie R. Burke, Clara Sidney, Daisy Belmont, Lulu Ayrton.

MITZI AT NATIONAL.
To the National is coming dear little Mitzi Hays in "Lady Billy," Henry W. Savage's latest musical romance. And it's just Mitzi this season. She has dropped off the Hays. Probably she found folks were continually mispronouncing that Hungarian name and sought the easiest way out. One can't blame her much, at that. So it's just Mitzi this season, and everybody's satisfied.

In "Lady Billy," a diminutive, poverty-stricken countess stops playing the family ghost of her ancestral Rumanian castle to win fame and love as a boy soprano in New York.

The book and lyrics were written by Zella Sears. The music was composed by Harold Levy, a new discovery of Colonel Savage. A distinguished cast included Sydney Greenstreet, Boyd Marshall, Arthur Uttry, Beatrice Constance, Jean Newcombe, Josephine Adair, Charles Gay, and the Collette.

There is a large ensemble of fascinating girls, the "Billy" quartet, the dancing quartet, and the Henry W. Savage orchestra.

"WILD CHERRY" HERE.
Still another Comstock and Gest production is scheduled for the first time on any stage, when on Monday night, September 6, Ruth Shepley will come to Poli's in a new Guy Bolton play, described as a "dramatic comedy," and entitled "Wild Cherry."

Mr. Bolton is known to theatergoers through having been co-author of "Adam and Eva," "Polly With a Past," and "The Love Girl," to say nothing of a long line of musical hits, while Miss Shepley needs no introduction to local theatergoers, her delightful performances in such successes as "The Boomerang" and "Adam and Eva," being still fresh in the memory.

Messrs. Comstock and Gest have gathered together a notable cast for "Wild Cherry," including in addition to Miss Shepley, Tim Murphy, Kenneth Harlan, Gilbert Douglas, Edwin Strawbridge, Rose Winter, Gaston Bell, Mary Thompson, Charles Newman, and a host of others. The production is being staged by Clifford Brooke.

PREPARE TO WEEP.
Beginning next Sunday night, with a special holiday matinee on Labor Day, the Garrickers launch their farewell week in the summer vacation grand revival of the ever-popular "East Lynne."

"East Lynne" is one of the very few plays that have the test of time from the day of their grandfathers down to the present, although Washington has not had an opportunity to view it in nearly twenty years. The Garrickers selected it for their final week, because of the numerous requests that have been made to the management.

After spending this week in Baltimore, "Jim Jam Jems," with Ada Mae Weeks as the featured performer, comes to the National on September 12. It is whispered that this new John "ort musical comedy savors in some way of the peculiar drawing powers of the magazine of the same name. Others in the company are Elizabeth Mott, Fred Ray, Ned Sparks, Joe Brown, Harry Langdon, Zoe Barnett, the King Sisters, Parish and Peru, Press and Lane, Clark Ross and Virginia Clark.

Edward Oakford, a nephew of E. F. Albee, the chief owner of the B. F. Keith circuit, is in Washington "perusing" for his summer vacation according to custom under the eagle eye of Manager Robbins. He is learning the ropes and other paraphernalia from bottom to top as it is expected to be in handy when "Uncle Ed" calls Eddie to the Albee-Keith booking front.

Manager Robbins, of Keith's, who controls also the Albee building, formerly known as the Riggs building, is putting his new acquisition in the same apple-pie order as the theater. A big force is at work night and day cleaning, polishing and beautifying exterior and interior throughout.

TWO COMPANIES SHOW "CLARENCE" THIS SEASON

Two companies will present Booth Tarkington's "Clarence" on tour this season. The original company which ran for an entire season at the Hudson Theater, New York, will appear in Philadelphia and Boston and a few of the larger cities in the East, while the special Chicago company will appear in the Middle West and South.

Alfred Lunt, for whom the title role was written, will head the New York company, which will include Mary Boland, Phoebe Foster, John Flood and Glenn Kelly.

Gregory Kellar, famous as the original "Billy Baxter" in "Seventeen," heads the Chicago company, which includes among its members Grace Fikins, Ruth Gordon, Robert Adams, and Byron Beasley.

PLAYED WITH IRVING.
Lionel Belmore, who is now playing in "The Great Lover," played with Sir Henry Irving for fifteen years.

State Offering



Shubert-Belasco Opens Season Tonight With "Mystery" Puzzle

The Shubert-Belasco Theater will open its autumn season tonight, the opening attraction being Edward Delaney Dunn's play "Mystery." This drama is based on the famous Elwell murder mystery, which has had the undivided attention of the New York Police Department since early last June.

Mr. Dunn in his drama of a prodigious and three acts has, by the use of all the principal characters who have figured in this crime, pictured all the important incidents of the mystery and has, besides, given a solution of the same.

In the prologue we have the famous card expert, in his home in New York. He is discovered by his caretaker early in the morning dressed in his pajamas. The curtains tremble at the window and a hand reaches out and seizes the revolver which lies on the floor near the chair. The caretaker shakes the man in the chair, screams and runs out of the room, and as the curtain falls somebody escapes from behind the curtain.

The first act finds the police inspector on the job. The chauffeur is the first to appear. He well-nigh incriminates himself. The caretaker is put through the third degree, and then a young woman unexpectedly appears and informs the inspector that she has been summoned to the house by phone. Her relatives are sent for and also her attorney, and disclose all the incidents of the night before. In trying to cover up her divorced husband the young woman tells things that seem to incriminate her or her divorced husband.

A young man from Kentucky arrives on a bicycle. He frankly admits that he came intending to kill the deceased, but his train did not get into New York until half an hour after the murder. Several witnesses are brought in who appear to incriminate each other.

A year elapses. And now comes the author's solution of the mystery. It is the enactment of one of the most astonishing murder cases ever known in the United States.

A brilliant cast has been brought together which will include Katherine Grey, Thais Lawton, Grace

Cut Out Coupon For "Mystery"

The coupon idea having proven so popular with previous attractions, Manager Taylor of the Shubert-Belasco has arranged with the managers of the new drama, "Mystery," to continue this discount idea for the opening tonight of this attraction.

"Mystery" has created considerable interest elsewhere, but the play is yet new, and word-of-mouth or criticism of a well liked play on its opening performance is necessary to, and generally insures the success of an offering that might remain indefinitely unknown did it not at the start have the public encouragement of an audience of liberal proportions and which Manager Taylor's original first night discount idea attracts.

All that the reader of The Times has to do to enjoy the reduction in price is to cut the coupon from the theater advertisement in this paper and present it when making a purchase at the box office.

A great difficulty confronting managers with new plays, unless assistance by means of some artist or author of fame be had, is attracting audiences at the start. The promoter to quickly realize the value in his product. Therefore, why not save and see by attending the first night.

LEONA LA MAR SHARING HEADLINES WITH NONETTE

"Girl With Thousand Eyes" and Gypsy Violinist on Bill at B. F. Keith's.

Leona La Mar and Nonette will be the co-stars of the bill at B. F. Keith's Theater this week, commencing at the matinee tomorrow. Miss La Mar is called "The Girl With a Thousand Eyes." She ranks as the greatest in the psychic line in present-day vaudeville. Blindfolded she answers questions by the audience. They range from the whereabouts of lost articles to the location of lost affections. Her so-called stage seances are amusing as well as sensational.

Nonette is the fascinating gypsy violinist and singer. She is a musical comedy star as well as a concert and vaudeville celebrity. Last season she starred in "Somebody's Sweetheart." Earlier in her career she accompanied Nordica and Schumann-Heink on their concert tours. She is assisted by Jerry Jarnagin at the piano.

The extra added attraction will be Marshall Montgomery, considered the world's greatest ventriloquist. He is assisted by pretty Edna Courtney in the perpetration of his vocal manipulation and mimicry.

Others will be Arthur and Morton Havel in their latest success, "Suite," Mel Klee, the American Munchausen; Meredith and "Snooter," the "Intellectual band dog;" Corradini's animals in the fastest circus act in the two-day; the Pickfords in an amusing novelty; "Topics of the Day," and the kinograms.

Today at 3 and 8:15 p. m., at B. F. Keith's "Chic" Sale and "Puritana" will be re-enforced by all of last week's array.

B. F. Keith Vaudeville Circuit Adds Eight Houses in New York

NEW YORK, Aug. 29.—When the new theatrical season formally opens on September 12, the B. F. Keith circuit will be added to the B. F. Keith vaudeville circuit in Greater New York, making in all twenty-four magnificent houses bearing the Keith name in the metropolitan district and presenting the Keith brand of amusement which has become a national institution.

E. F. Albee, president and chief owner of the B. F. Keith circuit has just completed a deal involving millions by which he takes over the B. F. Keith circuit of eight splendid new houses which will be opened as part of the Keith circuit on Labor Day.

B. F. Keith retains a large interest in the houses and will be associated with Mr. Albee in their management. Mr. Albee announces that acts can now play New York from three to four months without leaving town and if they play repeat engagements or do two weeks in each house, as many headliners do, they can remain practically the entire season in New York.

Albee has a great influence upon concert, opera and legitimate stars contemplating vaudeville and will aid in building up a tremendous list of entertainment features upon which every house on the circuit has an equal claim in making up its programs.

Every expansion of the Keith circuit means equivalent expansion of its amusement resources. Besides the new houses in New York, Mr. Albee is building or about to build magnificent new theaters in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Indianapolis and Toledo.

GREAT FALLS PARK.
Great Falls Park continues to be the center of attraction for Washingtonians and tourists who are seeking a delightful place for picnic parties, fishing, boating, tennis, etc. Many other outdoor amusements and places of historic interest, including free concerts by the Ladies' Orchestra and free dancing, are also enjoyed here. Fast and frequent trains for the Falls leave at the terminal at Thirty-sixth and M streets northwest.



LOOKING AHEAD

"East Lynne" is booked for the Garrick Players, beginning next Sunday. A special holiday matinee will be offered on Labor Day, September 6.

Next week at B. F. Keith's, there will be an extra matinee at 5 p. m. Monday, in honor of Labor Day. The bill will offer Eduardo and Elsa Canas, Billy Arlington and company, Krantz and La Salle, Francis Renault, Arnold and Lambert, Mason and Cole, Camilla's birds, and other features.

"Broadway Belles" comes to the Folly Theater next Sunday for a week's engagement.

"Mollie Williams' Greatest Show," is next week's attraction at the Garrick Theater, with Miss Williams in the dual role of producer and star. The assisting cast contains the names of such capable performers as Teddy McNamara, "Cy" Plunkett, Billy Purcell, Frank Fanning, Don Trent, Evelyn Itammy, Billie Levinson, Louise Worthington, and "Pep" Bradford.

"Wild Cherry," a new dramatic comedy by Guy Bolton, comes to Poli's for the week beginning September 6.

Mitzi, in Henry W. Savage's latest comic opera production, "Lady Billy," comes to the National next week.

Frances Starr, in Edward Knoblock's latest play, "One," opens at the Shubert-Belasco September 6.

Ada Mae Weeks comes to the National next Sunday. "Jim Jam Jems," a musical comedy which gets under way at Ford's Theater, Baltimore, tomorrow night.

Next week's bill at the Cosmos Theater will be headed by the Carolina Singers, an aggregation of four men and four women. Mykoff and Vanity will bring a beautiful dance creation; Van and Carrie Avery, a backstage scream, "The Fortune Teller;" George Armstrong, pungent, and laughable parodies in song; Janet Granese and company, a unique song surprise; Landon and Smith, a new griot of laughable absurdities, and the Four Rennee Girls, in a tour of five continents in twenty minutes, including songs, dances and costume changes.

The big added matinee feature will picture Charles Ray in "Homer Comes Home," and the big comedy picture will be Larry Semon's "The Stage Hand."

GLEN ECHO PARK.

Sol Minster's band will be the principal attraction at Washington's only free amusement park, Glen Echo, this afternoon and evening. The band concerts will begin at 4 o'clock this afternoon and continue until 11 o'clock. In addition to the band concert the forty attractions will be in full swing.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH.

Realizing that the late summer and early fall are the most beautiful time of the entire year at Chesapeake Beach, large crowds still are patronizing the Maryland resort daily. Free dancing is a daily attraction, music being furnished by a large jazz orchestra. Fishing is excellent and crabbing also is a popular pastime. Salt-water bathing and boating likewise have their many devotees. Convenient train service will be maintained until the middle of September.

BOBBY BARRY'S COMEDY IN GAYETY BURLESQUE

"Varieties a la Mode" Opens Today for Week's Stay at Popular Ninth Street House.

In "Varieties a la Mode," the attraction to be presented by "The Maids of America" at the Gayety Theater this week, are to be found representative bits of every form of entertainment from comedy to grand opera. William K. Wells, author of numerous burlesque successes, is responsible for its book. It is said to be replete with humorous situations and brilliant flashes of satire on current events.

The presenting company is headed by Bobby Barry, of delightfully droll talents as an imitator of the elusive laugher. The supporting cast includes George Leon, George E. Snyder (formerly of the New York Hippodrome), Doris Bolton, Althea Barnes, Jane Mae, Charles Lloyd, Edward Quiley, William Atwell and Gus Stevenson.

A chorus notable both for the individual beauty and singing and dancing talents of its individual members will form an attractive background to the whole.

In the second act will be found a smart satire on suburban life entitled "99 Minutes from Broadway," a clever automobile travelogue, "In a Glass," during which the characters represent the various makes of high powered machines, and concludes with a Chinese restaurant cabaret scene.

Several vaudeville specialties are to be introduced as incidentals to the action, including the well-known "Four in a Row," "The Misleading Lady," and "The Misleading Man."

For months, she has prayed to the Lord to send her a "Gringo" mate. From a storm-wracked sky, as if in answer to her prayer, plunges young Marvin, with a broken wing. Inez promptly appropriates him and the captain is for promptly shooting him as a rival, but as a bandit he can't resist the temptation of first collecting \$100,000 ransom.

Headless of the conventions and reckless of consequences, the woman in the rough works fast to win her mate. All are against her. Farley points out the impassable gulf between them and the captain waits with itching trigger-finger for the woman in the rough; also she is woman madly in love, and she has no sense. Like Paul Jones with his

run several shows two weeks, which is quite a feat for Washington.

"I also notice that you excel in farce, the hardest kind of plays for any company to handle. I remember that before closing your season you play "Baby Mine," which I consider the best farce ever written. I saw Marguerite Clark play this several years ago, and I believe your ingenuit, Miss Nell Barnes, who made such a distinct hit in "Fair and Warner," is ideally suited to the part played by Miss Clark. And I would like to see Mr. Bell, who made such a hit in "The Misleading Lady," do the comedy part originally played by Walter Jones. Please indulge an old patron to this extent."

It is because of this letter and the following extract from George Jean Nathan in the Smart Set that the Garrickers are planning for one week beginning tonight, "Baby Mine."

"I regard Margaret Mayo's "Baby Mine" a finer dramatic performance in dramatic composition than the best propaganda melodrama that Brixius has ever written or the best emotional drama that has ever been manufactured by the Times Square Press. Augustus Thomas."—George Jean Nathan.

CHEVY CHASE LAKE.
An enjoyable evening is always assured those attending Chevy Chase Lake. The two large open air pavilions have been taxed to their capacity every night with many enthusiastic dancers, appreciative of the snap-jazz music rendered by the Meyer Davis Orchestra. Fox trots, waltzes, and one steps are all included in the programs, and only the very latest pieces are played.

"Broken Wing," Romance of the Air Service, Comes to National

In the new play, "The Broken Wing," by Paul Dickey and Charles W. Goddard, authors of "The Misleading Lady" and "The Ghost Breaker," the central theme is the unusual and intense love story of an American aviator and a Mexican girl, Philip Marvin is the refined and finished product of American civilization—little Inez Villera a woman in the rough.

This new drama, which will have its premier on the stage of the National Theater tomorrow night, is located in a primitive spot of Mexico, 150 miles south of the border. Here Captain Innocencio dos Santos, a bandit with power of life and death over all for fifty miles around.

Three mortal times, this magnificent creature has permitted Inez to decline his offer of marriage. But forbearance is not a Mexican virtue, and nobody knows this better than Luther Farley, an elderly American who has brought up Inez from her orphaned babyhood.

It is really Farley's fault that she does not want the captain. Farley taught her to hate dirt and to love soap and all sorts of American things. Unintentionally he planted in her youthful mind a fixed idea that only an American husband was worth having.

For months, she has prayed to the Lord to send her a "Gringo" mate. From a storm-wracked sky, as if in answer to her prayer, plunges young Marvin, with a broken wing. Inez promptly appropriates him and the captain is for promptly shooting him as a rival, but as a bandit he can't resist the temptation of first collecting \$100,000 ransom.

Headless of the conventions and reckless of consequences, the woman in the rough works fast to win her mate. All are against her. Farley points out the impassable gulf between them and the captain waits with itching trigger-finger for the woman in the rough; also she is woman madly in love, and she has no sense. Like Paul Jones with his

Starting at a point away from 'mongst the back borders of the stage, the audience sees a wee plane apparently in difficulties and, although called upon to exercise its imagination to picture a real plane, the property of playwrights—plainly hears the conversation between the observer and his pilot while, all the time growing larger and more distinct to the eye, the plane plunges downward toward Mother Earth until a tremendous crash is heard and is eventually revealed as a crushed mass of twisted and broken wings, fuselage, wires, and human freight when the lights "come on."

During its long fall in entire darkness both on the stage and in the auditorium, a tiny searchlight is continually playing from the aerial wanderer, sometimes up into the sky and again out over the heads of the audience, and those who witnessed the scenic rehearsals of "The Broken Wing" on the stage of the Brooklyn Academy of Music last week describe it as one of the most realistic electrical effects ever used upon the stage.

How and by what means this novel effect is achieved is a mystery even to the members of the company, as the electrician in charge guards his secret as a miser does his gold, but when the observer is hauled from beneath the wreckage, it is hard for the spectators to believe for a time that they have not actually witnessed a little bit of "over there."

BUY TICKETS EARLY.
Anticipating a big demand for seats during this engagement, the management of the Garrickers urges the buying of tickets for the early part of the week, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights, as the demand for these nights is not as great as that of the latter part of the week. Tickets are now on sale for "East Lynne."

STARTED AT COLLEGE.
Claire Adams, playing "Ethel" in "The Great Lover," began her stage career in college theatricals.